



Congressman Jared Polis

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H.R. 5763, the Solar Expansion of Distributed Generation Exponentially (EDGE) Act

Background on Distributed Generation:

- Distributed generation — power sources that generate energy from numerous individual systems, rather than large centralized facilities such as concentrated solar or traditional fossil fuel power plants — represent one of the most promising and underutilized resources in our nation's clean energy arsenal. Drastically increasing distributed generation through solar on residential and commercial buildings will allow America to immediately incorporate more clean energy into our existing energy grid, saving taxpayers' dollars on expensive large infrastructure like new transmission lines.
- As prices for solar technology continue to decline, and innovative financing models (such as net metering or Property Assessed Clean Energy Bonds) are developed, solar is becoming more accessible and affordable for average consumers every day, and many consumers can now access solar power for less than their current monthly utility bill. Unfortunately, this remains limited to only a handful of states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon, and Texas to name a few) that have enacted policies supporting such financing models.
- The Solar and clean tech industry is a rare bright spot in Colorado's economy, yet fossil fuels remain the leader by a long shot when it comes to federal government support. Because of this we are currently watching our domestic solar industry slowly move overseas to countries like Italy, Germany and China who are investing aggressively in the technology.
- Additionally, residential and commercial distributed generation solar installations are more labor intensive than large utility scale projects, meaning that promoting the installation of small distributed generation systems has a greater bang for the buck with regards to job creation.

What the Solar EDGE Act does:

- Provides a two-year 20% increase to the current Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for small solar systems (under 20kW), creating an aggressive, short-term acceleration of distributed generation for residential and commercial consumers, accelerating job creation and bolstering the domestic industry. Residential consumers of small systems would receive this benefit outright, making solar cost competitive with current utility bills regardless of state policy; commercial consumers would have the choice between receiving the additional 20%, or choosing the currently available five-year accelerated depreciation of solar property.
- Creates an estimated 83,000 new jobs (According to the SEIA) with industry growth benefits lasting long after the short term boost expires. This measure will add a projected additional 1,000 MW of new solar and over \$6 billion in new private investment, without the expensive infrastructure investments that accompany new centralized power sources.
- Maintains US competitiveness in the solar industry by growing our domestic solar market, ensuring that the US is not overshadowed by solar powerhouses like Italy, Germany and China.
- Protects and insulates our nation's vital solar industry from market instabilities caused by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's ongoing issues with the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. [See Congressman Polis' work to support the PACE program.](#)

Supporting Organizations

- Solar City, Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), DOW Chemical